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1989/06/08

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Department of State

(296) OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

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TRUE OF THE PEACE CORPS, DUE TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN CHINA IN SEPTEMBER. ALL OF THESE ELEMENTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP MAY UNDERGO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE BECAUSE OF THE UNSETTLED CONDITIONS IN CHINA, BUT WE FELT WE SHOULD NOT ADD TO THE DAMAGE BY HURRIED ACTIONS.

7. (S) THE CONSIDERATIONS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 6 COULD, OF COURSE, BE REVISITED IN THE LIGHT OF ON-GOING DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA.

8. (S) ACTION REQUESTED: CHIEFS OF MISSION AT ACTION ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT AT THE HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE U.S. THE OPTIONS CONSIDERED ABOVE ARE FOR YOUR BACKGROUND. WE WOULD EXPECT EMBASSIES TO TAILOR THEIR PRESENTATIONS ACCORDING TO THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR HOST GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONS WITH CHINA. AS APPROPRIATE, WE WELCOME HOST

GOVERNMENT VIEWS, AND INFORMATION ON REACTIONS BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:

--IN RESPONSE TO THE BRUTAL SUPPRESSION OF PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS IN BEIJING BY ELEMENTS OF THE CHINESE ARMY IN RECENT DAYS, THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF STEPS THAT THE US IS TAKING TO EXPRESS OUR CONDEMNATION: A) SUSPENSION OF ALL GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT SALES AND COMMERCIAL EXPORTS OF WEAPONS; B) SUSPENSION OF VISITS BETWEEN US AND CHINESE MILITARY LEADERS; C) SYMPATHETIC REVIEW OF REQUESTS BY CHINESE STUDENTS (AND OTHER PRC NATIONALS) IN THE US TO EXTEND THEIR STAY HERE; D) THE OFFER OF HUMANITARIAN AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE RED CROSS TO THOSE INJURED DURING THE ASSAULT ON BEIJING; E) REVIEW OF OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AS EVENTS IN CHINA CONTINUE TO UNFOLD.

--THIS RESPONSE REFLECTED THE OUTRAGE FELT BY THE ADMINISTRATION, THE CONGRESS, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AT THE DECISION TO USE FORCE. THE PRESIDENT HAD COUNSELED RESTRAINT AND AVOIDANCE OF BLOODSHED AND VIOLENCE, BOTH IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND IN PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS WITH SENIOR CHINESE LEADERS. THE DECISION TO USE FORCE PRODUCED CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA WHICH WE COULD NOT IGNORE, AND COMPELLED A RESPONSE.

--THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE CLEAR THAT IN DECIDING OUR RESPONSE HE HAS WISHED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT LONG-TERM INTERESTS AND RECOGNITION OF THE COMPLEX INTERNAL SITUATION IN CHINA, WHICH CLEARLY SUFFERS DIVISION UP TO SENIOR LEVELS.

--THE PRESIDENT CHOSE TO CONCENTRATE OUR REACTION TO TWO AREAS: THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP AND HUMANITARIAN MEASURES FOR STUDENTS AND THOSE INJURED IN THE CLASHES. HE DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR NOW TO TAKE STEPS TO CURTAIL OUR COMMERCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND CULTURAL RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN SO MUCH A PART OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF CHINA FROM A CLOSED SOCIETY TO THE COUNTRY WIDELY CONNECTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT TO TAKE MEASURES IN THESE AREAS WOULD BE TO AFFECT NEGATIVELY PRECISELY THOSE FORCES WHICH CAN CHANGE CHINA FOR THE BETTER.

--WE DO NOT WISH TO CUT OFF DIPLOMATIC DIALOGUE AT THIS TIME. WE ARE KEEPING OUR AMBASSADOR IN PLACE IN BEIJING. HIS PRESENCE IS CRUCIAL BOTH FOR LIAISON WITH CHINESE LEADERS AND FOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR AN EMBASSY AND AMERICAN COMMUNITY WHOSE SECURITY IS IN QUESTION.

WE ARE REDUCING THE SIZE OF OUR DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE FOR

SECURITY REASONS. WE ARE NOT WITHDRAWING OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE.

--THE SITUATION IN BEIJING REMAINS EXTREMELY TENSE WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF CLASHES BETWEEN MILITARY UNITS. WE HAVE STRONGLY URGED ALL AMERICANS NOT TO TRAVEL TO CHINA. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE ORDERED THE EVACUATION OF DEPENDENTS AND NON-ESSENTIAL US GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN CHINA, AND ARE URGING ALL AMERICANS IN CHINA TO LEAVE AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

--I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN YOUR REACTION TO THE STEPS WHICH WE HAVE TAKEN. WE ALSO WOULD WELCOME A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN OR IS CONTEMPLATING IN REACTION TO THE DEVELOPMENTS IN BEIJING.

9. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. BAKER

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